MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH   MARCH 3, 2009

<u>PUPPY MILLS</u>

Over the past year, the Department of Animal Care and Control has experienced a significant increase in the number of cases in the County involving the overbreeding of dogs at permitted and/or licensed kennels. Facilities that engage in such large scale commercial dog breeding for profit are commonly referred to as "puppy mills." Puppies from these mills are sold directly to the public through the internet or to retailers and boutique pet stores. Unfortunately, many of these kennels have been found to endanger the health and welfare of adult dogs and puppies by housing them in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions; and many of the dogs are maintained without adequate veterinary care, food, water and socialization. Over the past six months alone, the County has had to seize and/or order the relocation of hundreds of puppies and adult dogs due to such conditions, which has increased the burden, costs and impact on County shelters and rescue organizations.

Currently, "puppy mills" are subject to limited County regulation and oversight by various County agencies.

<u>MOTION</u>

Molina   _____

Ridley-Thomas   _____

Yaroslavsky   _____

Antonovich   _____

Knabe   _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to work with the Department of Animal Care and Control, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Regional Planning, and the Department of Public Health, in consultation with County Counsel and the District Attorney, to review the existing County regulations governing the location, size and operation of dog kennels and dog breeding facilities and make recommendations, including proposed ordinance amendments, for improving the quality of care for the animals and for ensuring responsible and safe dog breeding.

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer report back with any proposed ordinance changes within ninety (90) days.

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MDA:lgh
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